CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Battalions for Maintenance of Military Telegraph Lines

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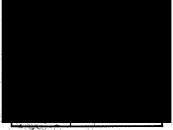
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in peacetime the care of the permanent military telegraph lines (on poles) is entrusted to:

a. Telegraph-telephone battalions. In peacetime every military district normally has one-three such battalions.

 Separate telegraph-telephone companies. Such companies are attached to military garrisons.

- 2. "In wartime the headquarters of staffs and armies are provided for communication with:
  - a. Telegraph-building battalions. One to two battalions are attached to each army.
  - b. Telegraph-exploiting battalions (TEB).
- 3. "Every TEB has three telegraph exploiting companies (TER) with four platoons in each. One to two such battalions are attached to every army.
- 4. "The communication between army and front headquarters takes place over permanent lines (on poles) or over cable lines.
- 5. "Separate telegraph-exploiting companies (OTER) and telegraph-exploiting companies (TER) have the same organization. Since 1948 these units have been 100 per cent motorized. They consist of four equally large platoons.
- "Normally one OTER or TER services 100-150 kilometers of telephone line. Each platoon normally services 50-40 km of the line. The fourth platoon stays in reserve.
- 7. "The personnel of the TER and OTER consists of the following trained specialists:
  - a. Line inspectors
  - b. BODO telegraph operators
    - Morse
    - c. Telephone operators

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- d. Electromechanics
- e. Electrotechnicians
- "The OTER and TER are responsible for telegraph communications between the headquarters of army corps, armies and fronts. When the armed forces are advancing, these companies: a. rehabilitate the network of the permanent telegraph and cable lines in the territory taken from the enemy and operate them; b. direct the building of new lines by the telegraph-building battalions and companies and operate the new lines.
- "On retreat these companies destroy the lines of communication on the territories abandoned to the enemy. For these purposes they are provided with the appropriate means of destruction.
- "In peacetime the OTER and TER are subordinated to the 'Operative Adminis-10. tration of the Chief Administration of the Land Forces Communications'.
- "In wartime the majority of these companies are put at the disposal of the Communications Administrations of the Fronts and the Communications Depart-
- 12. "The OTER and TER have their own special numbering, viz. 1 OTER, 2 OTER, etc. - 1000 OTER 1 TER, 2 TER, etc. - 500 TER."

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